(*b*) Uniforms have been supplied to almost all and the others are being supplied.
(*c*) Does not arise.

SACRAMENTAL WINE—GALLONAGE FEES—PARTICULARS OF

50. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)* : Will Government be pleased to state.—
(*a*) whether Government charge gallonage fees on the sacramental wine produced in Cochin State;
(*b*) if so, from whom all;
(*c*) the total amount of gallonage fees collected from each within the last 3 years;
(*d*) how many of these church dignitaries or institutions do not sell the wine to any person other than their parish churches;
(*e*) how many of these dignitaries give the Altar wine free to the subordinate parishes;
(*f*) is there any difference in the matter of gallonage fees between the institutions and dignitaries referred to in (*d*) and (*e*);
(*g*) the percentage of alcohol in each of the different varieties of Altar wine produced in the State?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Commissioner of Excise)* :
(*a*) Yes.
(*b*) From all the ecclesiastical dignitaries who are licensed to manufacture Mass wine in the State.
(*c*) Rs. 73—14—0 in 1115,
Rs. 258—9—0 in 1116 and
Rs. 773—7—11 in 1117.
(*d*) According to the rules none of the licensed local manufacturers can sell Mass wine to anybody.
(*e*) The rules do not allow any sale of such wine by the licensed ecclesiastics. It can only be issued for use for bona fide religious purposes to the churches or other religious institutions under the spiritual jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical dignitaries who are licensed to manufacture Mass wine in the State. Such issues can therefore be free issues only.
(*f*) There is no difference at all. Please see also answer to sub-division (*d*) above.
(*g*) This has not been ascertained as the necessity for doing so has not arisen.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: May I know the percentage of alcohol in these wines?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Commisssoner of Excise)*: That has not been ascertained.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Is there not a rule that gallonage fees may be charged for such wines which has got a certain amount of alcohol percentage in it?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Commissioner of Excise)*: Yes. But gallonage fee is collected on the bulk.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Will the Government be pleased to send these wines to some chemical analysis laboratory and find out whether it is below or above that standard?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Commissioner of Excise)*: There are a set of special rules; the general rules will not apply to it.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi)*: According to the Government in answer to (*c*), there is an increase in the gallonage fees every year. Why was it due to?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Commissioner of Excise)*: Because more licenses are issued now for manufacture in the State. It is due to the difficulty to import more wine from foreign countries. And here it is also less costly to manufacture mass wine.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi)*: Did the Government make any enquiry into the matter, whether they are using that right for a legitimate purpose? We find an increase from 73 to 773 in the course of three years. Why?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Commissioner of Excise)*: Because larger number of licenses are issued as a result of difficulties to get wine from outside.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: Sir, under Standing Order 12 the Chair may kindly allow me to put question No. 42, as I was not present at the time when the question was taken up. The Chair can use its discretion and say that the answer to the question be given.

Mr. President: Do you want an answer to that one only?

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: Only that one.

Mr. President: Yes. You are allowed to ask the question.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: May I know Sir, how long it has been since Government have been contemplating the undertaking of survey of the Willingdon Island?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* For about two and a half years to three years.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Why is the Government not doing it yet? What is the delay due to?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The survey was done really by the harbour authorities and they informed the Cochin Government that another survey will not serve any purpose. The Diwan Peishkar has some doubts. Correspondence is going on.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* Are you not losing land tax by this delay?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Land tax has not very much to do with the survey. The one need not completely depend upon the other.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Is not the Willingdon Island subject to land tax?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* On that subject also there is a correspondence with the Government of India. That correspondence is still going on.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Is there any place in Cochin State which is not taxed, other than the Willingdon Island?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The contention of the Government of India is that since the Cochin Government received a royalty on portions of that land from the Government of India, a further levy of land tax on the same set of lands may not be quite proper. They have raised that serious contention because the Cochin Government received a royalty. Therefore that point is being considered once again. They reclaimed the land and the ownership was transferred to them, by receiving Rs. 1,000 per acre.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* That is only for the land reclaimed by the harbour authorities.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The Cochin Government received a royalty and it is the contention of the Government of India that land tax should not be levied. We have not acceded to that contention. The question is being considered very seriously.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know Sir, whether there is any land in the Cochin State about which there is this sort of contention raised by anybody?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Probably there is not. Anyhow when the Government of India raised such a contention, we have to look into the matter carefully. And the file is at present with the Advocate-General, who is studying this question very seriously.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Suppose the property does not belong to the Cochin State and there is no jurisdiction?

Mr. President: No such contention is being raised by the Government of India.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* If by the payment, the land ceases to be under the control of the Cochin Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* They have never said anything about the civil and criminal jurisdiction.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* So, civil and criminal jurisdiction is under the Cochin Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Yes. We have complete sovereignty. The only question is with regard to land tax.

Mr. Ismail Haji Essa Sait *(Mattancheri):* How much extent of this land has been disposed of to the Government of India?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* About 500 to 600 acres.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* So the lands are in our possession and they are used by the harbour authorities?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* It is about that I am speaking now.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* The other portion which was reclaimed by the harbour authorities?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The other portion was reclaimed by ourselves. Under special agreement they are paying us also 5 per cent interest.

Mr. Ismail Haji Essa Sait *(Mattancheri):* Who pays?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* We are receiving Rs. 75,000 a year from the harbour.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* May I know Sir, whether at the time of sale of these lands there was any talk about the lands themselves?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: That is a vital factor, whether there was any tacit understanding, what is the exact meaning given to the word royalty, what is intended to be given—they are all points at issue.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: May I know Sir, who is the owner of the land?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: We have got complete sovereignty.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: Not ownership?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: When this question is settled, the other questions will be automatically settled.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: Even supposing the ownership is with the Government of India, as a private landlord?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The hon'ble member is presuming so many premises.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: റോയൽടി വാങ്ങി പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായം നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനില്ലേ?

രാമവമ്മതമ്പുരാൻ: ഇല്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. വി. ഇയ്യു: തറവില പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടില്ലേ?

രാമവമ്മതമ്പുരാൻ: ഉണ്ട്.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. വി. ഇയ്യു: അതിനും ഇതിനും വല്ല വ്യത്യാസവുമുണ്ടോ?

രാമവമ്മതമ്പുരാൻ: അതല്ലേ ചോദ്യം.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: So the distinction is between *tharavila* and royalty.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Sir I may be permitted to ask Question No. 41, as I too was absent at the time when the question was taken up.

Mr. President: No. I have allowed only one exception.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

28—Public Works Rs. 10,52,073

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Sir, I have the honour to request the House for a grant of Rs. 10,52,073 under 28—Public Works.

The Budget of the P. W. D. for the year 1118 which I am presenting to the House as you would have doubtless noticed is one which is meant to serve the interest and well-being of the people of the country in the best possible manner. Expenditure on what might be termed as luxuries is non-existent in this budget. Emphasis has been laid on the improvement of Irrigation. It is proposed to take up the Thottarapuncha Scheme next year which will benefit an area of over 660 acres of land. This is a proposal which has been put forward by the people for the past few years and we have been able to devise a scheme to afford the necessary facilities to improve the cultivation in this area. The Thottarapuncha is a belt of low lying lands skirting the Muvattupuzha river. The length of the river from this place to where it finally joins the backwaters near Poothot is about six miles. During the floods of N. E. Monsoon the level of the river near Thottarapuncha lands is nearly 8 feet higher than that of the backwaters. This is the reason for the great submergence of the fields at that time. It is now proposed to put up a bund on the right bank of the river to ward off the flood waters of the river from the lands and at the same time to drain the storn water from the fields by means of a new channel to the Konath river near its junction with the backwaters. By doing these works, the flooding of the Thottarapuncha lands will be greatly minimised and the ryots will be able to raise their crops successfully.

We have also budgetted for the Chalakkudi River diversion. This work is one which has been attracting the constant attention of this House ever since its inception and it is also one which was being considered by the Government for the past thirty years. On account of the dire necessity for increase in food production for the country this interstatal question was taken up again with the Travancore Government last month.

The proposal is to put an anicut across the Chalakudi River at a place called Sastamvayil some distance above Echipara and to lead a canal to the saddle on the Edumbankavalai and then to take the main canal along Pariaram, Elingipara, Potta, Perambra and Chalakudi. This will serve according to survey conducted some years ago, to irrigate about 8,000 acres of *parambas* and 4,000 acres of wet lands. Two crops can be raised on them if irrigated. Connected with this Chalakudi diversion was the question of the irrigation of the Kole lands. Apart from certain opinions expressed by some prominent agriculturists that there will be sufficient water, no one seemed to have made any reliable observation of the flow. This was the position four years ago.

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